Internet Assessment Framework – Internet Universality Indicators

UNESCO, 27/08/2019
Regional Overview:

- Cases of online defamation are on the rise; judicial practices regarding civil law violations have created new limitations on press freedom;
- Increases in the shutting down of access to mobile, internet applications and services by states;
- Data sovereignty and efforts by governments to restrict the transfer, or exert more control over, cross-border data transfers;
- The use of social media platforms’ and messaging apps to spread disinformation, propaganda and to justify prevalent narratives. In Asia, fake news is spread mainly for political rather than economic or anti-scientific reasons.
Regional Overview:

- An increased availability of **digital platforms for expression and user-generated content**, while the digital switchover has expanded plurality of television and radio channels;
- A rise of polarized pluralism, diversity of information and programming, and a fragmentation of audiences. Countries that report increased polarization and sectarianism also report **media capture and polarization** in both traditional and new media platforms;
- **Content filtering** takes places due through algorithms used for decision-making in private platforms;
Regional Overview:

• The independence of media regulatory bodies is weakened by their location under authority of ministries or through key appointments and funding;

• **Political control** of media institutions is exercised in a direct manner through ownership, and indirectly through licensing and content regulation obligations;

• The financing and business models of traditional media experience challenges due to **the growth of digital news and media consumption**;
Regional Overview:

• The expansion of internet journalism in the region has brought with it new risks for digital journalists. The number of internet journalists and bloggers killed between 2012 and 2017 forms a substantially increasing trend;

• Many countries introduced cyber security legislation that regulates online content through criminal and civil penalties or enabled surveillance, including 8 countries Southeast Asia.

• Internet journalists are imprisoned under these laws in numbers which now exceed journalists working in traditional mediums.
UNESCO General Conference 2015: Internet Universality
The Indicator Development Process (2017-2018)

- Multistakeholder Advisory Board
- More than 2000 experts consulted, and more than 66 national governments have also submitted comments
- 2 information meetings with Member States
- 2 phases of online consultation in six languages
- 46 international consultative meetings held in 32 countries
- Feasibility testing in Brazil, Ecuador, Nigeria, and Pakistan
- Pilot implementations in Brazil, Thailand, and Senegal
A Map of the Physical Consultation Phases 1, 2, 3

Phase 1

Phase 2
List of cities, countries: Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, Colombo, Sri Lanka, Geneva, Tel Aviv, Paris, France, Ottawa, Canada, Sao Paulo, Brazil, Shanghai, CA, USA, Tunis, Tunis, Egypt, Europe, Italy, Cardiff, United Kingdom, Accra, Ghana, Bangkok, Thailand, Toronto, Canada.

Phase 3
List of cities, countries: Tokyo, Georgia, Berlin, Germany, Eugene, OR, USA, Paris, Tunis, Brussels, Belgium.

Pre-tests and Pilot Tests
Pre-test assessments were undertaken in May 2018 in Brazil, Ecuador, Namibia, and Thailand. Pre-tests were undertaken between July and September 2018 in Brazil, Senegal, and Thailand.
### UNESCO’S Internet Universality Indicators: A Framework for Assessing Internet Development

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- **6 categories;**
- **25 themes;**
- **124 questions**
- **303 indicators, including 109 “core indicators”**
- **Sources** suggested
- **An implementation guide** setting 8 steps

[https://en.unesco.org/internetuniversality](https://en.unesco.org/internetuniversality)

English, French and Spanish versions online!
The objectives of conducting national assessment

• Develop a clear and substantive **understanding** of national Internet environment and policies;

• **Assess** national environment and policies in relation to (ROAM) principles

• Formulate **policy recommendations** and practical initiatives
UNESCO’S Internet Universality Indicators: A Framework for Assessing Internet Rights, Openness, Accessibility, Contextual, Cross-Cutting, Multi-Stakeholder Participation.
UNESCO’S Internet Universality Indicators

- Establishing a Multistakeholder Advisory Board
- Building a collaborative research team
- Developing a research action plan
- Data gathering
- Data analysis
- Report-writing and recommendations
- Organizing of national validation multistakeholder workshop
- Impact assessment and monitoring
UNESCO’s Internet Universality Indicators: A Framework for Assessing Internet Development

**Global events:** WSIS Forum – Internet Governance Forum (IGF) – European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDig) – RightsCon, Gig-art – Orbicom – Stockholm Internet Forum – Internet and Jurisdiction Conference

**UNESCO events:** World Press Freedom Day – International Day of Universal Access to Information – Global Media and Information Literacy Week – Mobile Learning Week – IFAP meetings – IPDC meetings
Ongoing discussion

The national assessment of ROAM-X Indicators in Asia-Pacific!
Call for your interest and support!

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